

CAMES supports HB13- 1068 Testimony for Senate Health Committee

CAMES is an organization made up of medical equipment companies including oxygen delivery services and supplies, medical supplies, orthotics and prosthetics, wheelchairs, hospital beds, rehabilitation equipment, and many other specialty medical items. CAMES follows healthcare trends and provides medical equipment information to the community.

Durable Medical Equipment providers have been in the high risk category for audits for quite some time. As an organization, we think fraudulent billing practices are abhorrent. However, we would want the state of Colorado to give thought to over burdensome auditing of businesses that are clearly not committing fraud. Some businesses are being penalized for not dotting "I's" and crossing "t"s.

Businesses who are committing fraud are billing for services that are never provided to the client or providing duplicate items that are not medically necessary. This is the most egregious form of fraud and not small billing errors where reimbursement is held because a box is not marked on a form. There are sometimes honest mistakes made.

We appreciate the bill provides further clarity for all providers and encourages the department to not penalize honest providers. DME reimbursement has diminished significantly over the past ten years with cuts and these additional administrative costs will close their doors. We would hope monies saved from auditing fraudulent providers could be redirected to improve reimbursement and quality choices for both honest provider and recipient. It will also impact the most vulnerable clients that receive these services.

Submitted by Edie Busam, on behalf of CAMES